**Rebates on Polyvastra and Khadi**

138. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rebates available at present on the sale of polyvastra and khadi;

(b) whether Government propose to continue the rebate; and

(c) if so, the date till which the rebate will continue?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The details of rebates available at present on the sale of polyvastra and khadi are as under:—

| S.No | Item | Norms il Rebate from 16.05.9" and upto i14.08.97 | Special Rebate ' from 15. 08.97 ' to I4.UN.9K in lieu of and inclusive ol Normal Ktbale |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cotton Khadi | 10% | 15% for 365 days |
| 2. | Woollen Khadi* | 10% | 15% for 365 clavs |
| 3. | Silk Khadi | | |
| | (i) Reeled | NIL | 15% lor 365 days |
| | (ii) Spun | 10% | 15% for 365 clays |
| 4. | Polyvastra | NIL | 15% for 365 days |

* it includes Kambals and Kamblics. Apart from above rebate, an additional special rebate @ 10% has been allowed for 90 days from 2.10.97, in pursuance of decision taken in the meeting taken by Prime Minister on 9.9.97.

(b) and (c) The High Power Committee (HPC) in its report submitted in 1994 had made several recommendations including the replacement of rebate scheme for khadi with the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme with an objective to improve marketability of khadi products by allowing them the flexibility in utilisation of Government grant for purpsocs such as advertisement, consultancy services, for new designs etc. in addition to allfowing some rebate on sale of khdi. However, Government have not yet taken any decision on this recommendation of the HPC.

**International exhibition on Jute India-97 held in New Delhi**

139. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day international exhibition on Jute and its diversified products "Jute India 97" was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) what was the number of participants from within the country and abroad;

(c) whether during his inaugural address he had given an assurance for creation of technology upgradation fund for modernisation of the entire textile and jute industry; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to implement the creation of technology fund?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Jute Manufactures Development Council, an autonomous body under Ministry of Textiles, organised a three day International Exhibition on jute and jute diversified products under the title "Jute India 97" on 20—22 October, 1997.

The exhibition comprised Seminar and Expo. The seminar was attended by 60 participants from abroad, including 4

from International agencies. The number of domestic participants in the seminar was 113. Besides this, a total of 135 participants from Jute Mills, enterpreneurs, R&D/HRD/Promotional organisations & others displayed their products and other developments in the Ejcpo.

(c) and (d) In the inaugural speech, it was informed that there is a proposal to include jute industry as part of the Technology Upgradation Fund proposed to be created by Government of India for covering the entire textile industry. Details of the Fund are being worked out.

**Purchase Centres of Jute Corporation of India in West Bengal**

140. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

1. the number of purchase eentres of Jute Corporation of India (JCI) in West Bengal;

2. the number of purchase centres in operation in the month of July, August, September and October, 1997;

3. whether about 100 centres were idle in the month of September, and the Jute growers were left at the mercy of the middlemen to sell raw jute much below the MSP level;

4. if so, the reasons therefor; and

5. if not, the month-wise factual position from July, 1997 till date vis-a-vis the price in the market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) JCI is operating through 96 purchase Centres in West Bengal.

(b) The number of purchase Centres in operation from the month of July, 1997 onwards are given below:—

| Month | No. of operational Purchase Centres |
|---|---|
| July | 20 |
| August | 69 |
| September | 92 |
| October | 96 |

12. No, Sir.

13. Does not arise.

15. The month-wise factual position from July, 1997 till 11.11.1997 is given below:—

| Month | Procurement in W.B. (bales of 180 Kgs.) | Purchase Centres in operation in West Bengal. | Ruling Market rates (Rs./Qtls.; South B. TD-5 | North B. TD-5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July | 582 | 20 | 580.00 | 603.00 |
| August | 60418 | 69 | 622.00 | 664.00 |
| Sept. | 122333 | 92 | 606.00 | 615.00 |
| October | 129167 | 96 | 620.00 | 624.00 |
| Nov. (upto— .11.'97) | 34444 | | 630.00 | 661.00 |
| Minimum Support Price | | | 626.00 | 620.50 |